

Message Text

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21B

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

AGR-05 HEW-04 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 /069 W

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R 010204Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2648

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: AUTHORIZING GROWTH OF BRACTEATUM POPPY IN THE U.S.

REF: BANGKOK 32086

1. BEGINNING THE LEGAL PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS RAW MATERIAL IN THE U.S. WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE GUB'S DETERMINATION TO SUPPRESS ILLICIT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING HERE. THE BURMESE HAVE AN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY REALIZE IT IS IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS TO DO SO; THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO REVERSE THIS POLICY BECAUSE OF ANYTHING WE DO OR SAY.

2. IN THEORY, AT LEAST, U.S. PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS COULD MAKE PROBLEMS FOR THE GUB IN CARRYING OUT ITS PROGRAM OF PHYSICALLY DESTROYING POPPY FIELDS, SINCE THE GROWERS COULD ARGUE THAT THE U.S. WAS BEING CYNICAL IN ENCOURAGING THE GUB TO DESTROY POPPY FIELDS WHILE BEGINNING TO GROW POPPIES ITSELF. SHAN STATE GROWERS (THEY MIGHT ALSO ARGUE) HAVE MUCH MORE LIMITED ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME THAN THE U.S. FARMERS.

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3. IN PRACTICE, THE GUB'S CONTROL OF INFORMATION MEDIA
IN THE AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL, AND THE GUB'S DISREGARD
FOR THE SENTIMENT OF POPPY GROWERS IN AREAS OUTSIDE ITS
CONTROL, LIMIT THE EMBARRASSMENT THAT COULD BE CAUSE
THE GUB BY THE U.S. DECISION TO GROW BRACTEATUM.

4. SOME--LESS THAN MAJOR --DAMAGE MIGHT BE DONE TO
OUR IMAGE AND OUR MORAL AUTHORITY IN THE EYES OF THE
BURMESE LEADERS. BURMESE SOCIALISM IS PATHOLOGICALLY
SUSPICIOUS OF THE "PROFIT MOTIVE," AND ANY TAIN OF
PROFIT-SEEKING COULD MAKE OUR BILATERAL NORCOTICS CONTROL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SOMEWHAT LESS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE
TO THE GUB.
OSBORN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760444-0810
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761283/aaaactsl.tel
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: SNAR, BM
To: STATE
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